

JANUARY 2022

VOICE OF ZION

A Monthly Publication of
 Zion Lippe United Church of Christ
 9000 Copperline Rd E
 Mt Vernon IN 47620
 812 985-2437
 website: zionlippe.org

Secretary email: zionlippese secretary@gmail.com
 Secretary Hours:
 Tues, Wed and Thurs 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

Rev. Jeff Long, Pastor
 Pastor cell: 812 306-4675
 Pastor email: zionlippepastor@gmail.com

Sunday Family Worship at 10 am
Sunday School at 9 am

Worship Attendance

Date	In Person	Virtual (est.)
11/28	134	54 devices
12/5	112	15 devices
12/12	143	40 devices
12/19	132	36 devices
12/24	175	56 devices
12/26	79	46 devices

Virtual worship was available on Zoom and YouTube.

Sunday School Average Attendance

December: Adult (18+) = 10
 Youth = 4 (Confirmation)



With snow, ice, &/or other inclement weather... Should questions arise concerning if Worship/Sunday School will be held on a given Sunday, cancellations will be announced on WFIE, Facebook, and the church's website.



Playground Renovation Donations

Continue to be Accepted

Thank you all so much for your donations to the playground renovation project... **WE ARE SO CLOSE TO OUR GOAL.** As of December 26, 2021 we have received donations and pledges totaling **\$78,881.00** toward our \$85,000.00 goal. That means we are about 93% of the way there. GREAT

JOB EVERYONE! If you haven't made a donation yet but would like to, please place your donation in an envelope marked, **"Playground"**.



Life After Loss - Bereavement Support Group - New Groups Forming

Finding our way after the sudden or expected death of a loved one can shift our directions, perspectives, thoughts, feelings, and emotions in so many ways. With an emphasis on thoughtful sharing, caring, and looking forward Zion church would like to offer an opportunity for you to be a part of new support groups. **If interested, or have questions, please contact Pastor Jeff or the Church office.**



JANUARY

In order to share in the joys and celebrations of our lives as a congregation we publish a monthly list of birthdays and anniversaries of members and friends of Zion. Numbers in () represent year.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 1 James Droege, Carla Breiner
- 3 Marvin Redman, Jonathan Schmitt
- 4 Bonnie Walker
- 6 Debbie Schorr
- 7 Steve Schroeder
- 8 Marilyn Smith
- 9 Mike Duncan, Sr.
- 12 Christy Watson
- 14 Eugene Herrenbruck, Suzie Schroeder,
Chase Will
- 15 Kyle Wallace
- 16 Clayton Hargett, Mitchell Hargett
- 17 Michael Schorr, Rhiannon Anderson,
Eliza Schroeder
- 18 Darlene Bosse, Claire Schroeder
- 19 Geraldine Schweikhart, Janelle Seitz
- 21 Makenzie Perry
- 22 Terry Schroeder, Lindsey Johnson
- 23 Rick LeGrange
- 24 David Schmitz, Kari Hoenert,
Rosemary Schroeder
- 26 Olivia Parker
- 28 Darlene Breiner, Katy Lang
- 29 Matthew Donner, Sally Noelle
- 30 Henry Warner
- 31 Lori Davenport, Jennifer Elless

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- 6 Bill and Sandy (Schenk) Esche (1978)
- 8 Keith and Connie (Donner) McCutchan
(1977)
- 20 Eugene and Sharon Herrenbruck (1962)
- 23 Mike and Kathy Duncan (1965)
- 28 Patrick and Emily Schroeder (2012)
- 31 Earl and Glenda Schroeder (1960)

If your birthday or anniversary is incorrect, or not listed, please call the office at 985-2437 so we may update our records. Thanks!

January Special Offering Church World Service Blankets+

Through CWS, blankets and other relief are sent immediately to people who have suffered disasters. More info at cwsblankets.org and foyer bulletin board. You may contribute by using Blanket Fund envelopes found at foyer bulletin board or go to cwsbestgift.org

Giving Statements

Anyone who would like a copy of their 2021 giving statement, contact Council Treasurer or the church office. Please allow a few days to receive your information.



With Sympathy

We extend heartfelt sympathy to the family of Patricia LeGrange. Patty passed away November 30, 2021 at the age of 67. Funeral services were held December 4 at Browning Funeral Home, with burial at Alexander Memorial Park. We cherish many good memories of Patty.



2022 Offering Envelopes

If you haven't done so yet, please pick up your box of envelopes on the cabinets in foyer.

We are happy to have offering envelopes available, use of the envelopes is helpful for ease of recording on the offering report. However if you donate in another way and find you do not use the envelopes assigned to you, please let the church office know. Also let the office know if you do not have a box assigned to you now, but would like one.

Please do not pick up boxes of envelopes for family or friends not living in your household unless they have specifically asked you to do so.

New Sunday School Study Group: An Introduction to the New Testament

Dear members and friends of Zion:

Pastor Jeff has invited me to lead a ***study of the New Testament, Sunday mornings at 9 am, beginning on January 9th***, and I invite all adult members and friends to attend.

Having recently retired after nearly 22 years of teaching various courses on the topics of religion and philosophy, I am looking forward to a more relaxed and less academic teaching environment, with material oriented to folks of all ranges of New Testament knowledge, from expert to novice!

Prepare to be surprised, astonished, amazed, amused, even shocked, perhaps, but ultimately my hope is that both your knowledge of, and faith in, the New Testament will be wider and deeper.

Here are some random questions/topics that may provide an overview of the shape of our study:

Do you know how a fish logo became a symbol of Christianity?

When was Jesus born? (No, it wasn't December 25, AD 1!)

How long was Jesus' ministry on earth? (Hint: Way more than three years!)

What is the "Q" Gospel? (And why should you care?)

What other gospels are there that didn't make it into the New Testament?

Which is the earliest (oldest) Gospel? (Hint – not Matthew!)

Were the Gospel of John, the letters of John (1, 2 & 3), and Revelation, written by the same "John"? (Hint – No!)

What was Jesus' understanding of the Kingdom of God? (Hint: Read Matthew 5:3-48; 19:16-30)

How did we end up with the "Common" version of The Lord's Prayer?

What *really* happened to Paul on the road to Damascus?

Who wrote 2nd Thessalonians? 1 & 2 Timothy? How do we know?

Why is the letter of James sometimes described as an "epistle of straw"?

As I begin the process of planning, I am well aware of the fact that some of you may have questions, not only about its formation, but about New Testament itself, so to ensure I that I cover as many of your concerns as possible, I invite you to email me with your questions, thoughts, insights, issues and the like, and - to the extent I can - I will include them (anonymously) in the lectures and discussions at the appropriate time. (See my email address below)

I'll give more details about the class format and content during the first session, at which time I'll share more about me and my teaching qualifications, and I'd also like to get to know about each of you, and discover what you hope to get out of our study of the New Testament.

I encourage you to bring a Bible with you to each class – either a physical one, or an electronic version (biblegateway.com has multiple online versions that are free to access, and has a quick look up feature that you may find helpful).

I very much look forward to what I will learn with you and from you as we undertake our journey of discovery.

Rev. Dr. Steve deClaissé-Walford

declaisse@gmail.com You may also text me at 404-915-2258

Tim Elmore, Growing Leaders CEO, writes that several years ago, in a remote area of a country in Africa, local villagers discovered that some young elephants wandered from the herd. They were lost for some time. When those pachyderms were returned to their families, they were no longer babies. They'd changed over time. Researchers, called Mahouts, made some fascinating observations as they watched these stray elephants.

- The young elephants began to bully other animals they encountered. At times, some even killed other animals, seemingly for fun. It was strange.
- The young elephants began a habit when they approached a pond to drink. They would splash the water and stir it up before looking down to take a drink.

After careful research, the Mahouts drew some conclusions about the elephants' conduct. First, because they had strayed, they left their role models, and they became destructive. Living in isolation, they bullied other animals and grew into rebels.

And the habit of splashing before they drank? It was only after careful observation, the Mahouts drew this conclusion: those elephants didn't like to see their reflections as they approached the water. So, they splashed around causing ripples and waves to prevent them from accurately seeing themselves.

This got me wondering. Do people do the same thing?

If you are anything like me, the holidays are a paradoxical time, at least emotionally. Even though we're living in spaces crowded with friends and family, we can live in emotional isolation. We don't let others inside. We suppress what we're feeling. Then, in our effort to mask what is really going on inside, we find our own ways to make a splash. When we don't like seeing who we really are, we distract ourselves with our busyness around the holidays or simple preoccupations with social media, you name it. None of these are criminal acts — they're just splashes, preventing us from facing what's happening inside. In short, we make splashes.

I believe the holidays and the New Year could be the perfect time to push the reset button in our lives and stop the splashing. Think about those lost elephants again. Drifting into isolation hindered them from remaining healthy. What happens to them happens to us today.

- They wandered away from role models they once watched.
- They drifted into unhealthy habits because they strayed from their community.
- They found ways to distract themselves so they wouldn't have to face reality.

As parents, educators, coaches, or other leaders, it's essential we model for our young people what healthy living looks like. And stepping away from our busy routines, even if for just a day, might be exactly what the doctor ordered. To lead them well, to lead our own lives well, we need to return to those role models we adopted in the beginning. We need to stop splashing around and instead take time to be quiet and still.

Mr. Elmore writes about 3 steps that can assist in this quest... he refers to them as ABCs.

- **Awareness.** First, ask yourself: what am I feeling? Am I experiencing negative emotions? Am I angry at someone? Am I melancholy? Am I anxious?
- **Belief.** Next, what have I started believing as a result of these emotions? Do I quietly believe I'm inadequate or superior or don't fit in or some other distortion?
- **Correction.** What is the truth I need to embrace? How can I believe the best about my situation, give grace to others, forgive if necessary, and move on?

We cannot be sure what this new year will bring exactly. However we do know that it will come and we will journey through it together. I hope that the teachings of our faith can help us discern and choose healthy choices, faithful actions, and servant leadership actions.

Blessings, *Pastor Jeff*

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### **WORDS OF THANKS . . .**

I would like to thank Rosie Bogard, Nancy Lewis, Raelynn Swope, Lilly Donner, Michelle Heneisen, and Ruth Redman who helped set up the Harvest Home celebration and all those who brought things to help fill the "Wheelbarrows" for God's Storehouse Food Pantry! It was great that we had so much that it took two vehicles to transport all the items to God's Storehouse!

Thank you to those who adopted a State Hospital Patient for Christmas. They were so excited to see all the gifts brought for the patients.

The Women of Zion still collect used/new cards and calendars for Activities Chairperson at the State Hospital, there are baskets inside the upstairs Sunday School hall that you can leave them in.

Blessings to you all, Irma Donner

Dear Zion Lippe friends,

You did something really special! Your donation to the Good Samaritan Home to help purchase a new transport van means so much to the residents who call Good Sam their Home. Every day residents of the Home need rides to medical appointments. State-provided transportation has been inadequate and sometimes undignified. Good Sam stopped using those services a few years ago. Our new van will provide the level of care and dignity our residents deserve. Thank you!

Rev. Michael Erwin, Chaplain and Gift Coordinator, Good Samaritan Home

Thank you for the wonderful Christmas Gift! Thank you, Zion Church for all your support and care and such a wonderful gift on Christmas Eve. I look forward to serving alongside each of you through 2022 and am excited about the possibilities for sure! Many blessings to each and every one of you!

Pastor Jeff & family

## Zion Lippe UCC Council Highlights 12/14/21

Attendance: Laura Droege, Michelle Heneisen, Terry Schroeder, Dan Hoffman, Bob Klenck, Laverne Deal.

11/30 YTD Regular Offering: \$155,185.34

11/30 YTD General Fund Income: \$170,109.79

11/30 YTD General Fund Expenses: \$153,039.51

Differences: (+)\$17,070.28

*\*\*Note YTD \$15,810 of Payroll was paid from PPP Fund instead of General Fund*

Michelle Heneisen purchased an extra 100 of the disposable communion packets, we have two full boxes left. There will be no communion for Blue Christmas.

Senior Citizen lunch will be a drive through.

Patrick Schroeder has the first federal debit card and will give it to Pastor Jeff to order Sunday school material.

There was discussion about workers comp policy for 2022.

On the budget 2 1/2% was added to everyone's salaries. Other small things were changed but the budget mostly stayed the same.

There is still money in the 4C Fund even though it is no longer used, Dan Hoffman proposed using that money for the playground and the council approves.

Kent Mann has replaced the inside and outside corners of the gutters.

Murphy Elevator will be doing the required test for the church elevator.

We are waiting on a list of candidates for new council members.

### **The Annual Congregational Meeting will be on the 30th of January.**

The council agrees to give Ruth Wintczak an extra week of vacation next year.

Pastor Jeff plans to call a meeting with the company we are working with on the playground project to set a start date after the Congregation votes on it at the annual meeting.

Christmas Eve service is at 7:00 pm, we will use the communion packets.

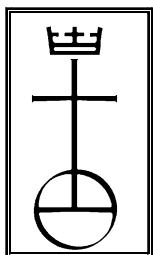
Blue Christmas will be December 19th with no dinner.

Children's Sunday school will start in January.

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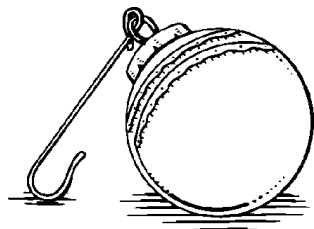
***Our New Pictorial Directory will be available soon! We expect to receive them about the middle of January and the directory committee will be available on Sundays to distribute them. Each family pictured in the directory will receive a free copy courtesy of Zion. Extra copies will be available for \$15 – contact Kelley Esche 812 453-8062 to reserve extra copies.***



ZION LIPPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
9000 COPPERLINE ROAD E  
MT. VERNON IN 47620

# *Happy New Year!*

***UNHANGING  
OF THE GREENS  
January 9, 2022***



**ZION LIPPE ANNUAL  
CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, 2022  
following the worship service**

**PLEASE SUBMIT ALL REPORTS TO  
CHURCH OFFICE BY JANUARY 19**

All Zion Members are encouraged to  
attend - in person or on Zoom.